



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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Solid waste collection changes to be considered

On Thurs., Feb. 11, Council members will discuss changing how City forces collect solid waste items. The discussion is prompted by a change in the contract the City was to enter into with the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA) for curbside recycling services.

The City has opted to extend the 2008-09 curbside recycling contract with DSWA through the end of June. This saves the City about \$6,000, as the extended contract pricing is lower than the new pricing. The extended contract also requires the City to take responsibility for curbside collection on July 1. The City has the option to provide this service using existing City forces, or to contract with a private vendor.

Council members will consider that if the City provides the added service of curbside recycling pickup using City personnel, then that will prompt a change in trash collection service. Currently, trash is collected twice per week.

Sign up to get your recycling cart now, to save money later! Call 322-9804.

This change would continue to provide two pickups per week, however one would be for trash and the other exclusively for recycling.

In fact, this would increase recycling services, from once every other week to once every week.

The extended agreement favors the City by providing, at no charge, recycle carts in place on June 30. That value currently ranges from \$21,600 to \$36,000. Added future savings can also be achieved if every household obtained a cart before June 30.

Projections to contract for curbside recycling services with a private vendor, beginning July 1, are estimated at a minimum cost of \$40,000 annually.

Citizens are urged to provide feedback on this proposal. Comments may be made at the February 11 City Council meeting, or may be provided in writing to the City offices, by fax (322-9814) or e-mail to:

CathrynThomas@NewCastleCity.org

Annual Black Tie & White Lace set for Feb. 6

The New Castle Historical Society (NCHS) will once again host the Black Tie & White Lace fundraising dinner, dance and silent auction at The Arsenal at Old New Castle on Saturday, February 6. The Black Tie & White Lace gala begins with cocktails and a silent auction at 6:30 p.m. Dinner is at 8 p.m., followed by dancing with music by The Cats. The event supports the Society's educational programming.

To ensure a spot at this event, participants are encouraged to purchase tickets early, as the gala has been a sellout in the past. Tickets are \$85 per person for NCHS members and \$90 per person for non-members. All tickets are paid in advance. To order, call the Society at 322-2794 to charge by phone, or mail a check, payable to the NCHS, to 2 East Fourth Street, New Castle, DE 19720.

Important Note:

The next regular City Council meeting will be held on a special date: Thurs., Feb. 11, at 7 p.m. The City Council will meet briefly at 7 p.m. on Tues., Feb. 9, (the normal regular meeting date), to call the meeting to order and adjourn all other business to the meeting on Feb. 11.

Both meetings will be held at Town Hall.

New Castle - The First Capital City!

3rd Annual SOUP-ER BOWL helps stock food banks; feed the hungry

This year, the New Castle Senior Center and Girl Scout Troop 927 are again co-hosting an event to help the hungry. In mid-January, the troop

went door-to-door, distributing door hangers announcing that on February 7th (the day of the Super Bowl), girl scout volunteers will be collecting cans of soup from New Castle residents.

If everyone gave at least one can, we'd have 5,000 cans donated. That's 5,000 hot meals!

For anyone who isn't home for the collection, donations may be left outside a front door, visible for pickup. Alternatively, items may be left in drop boxes at the following locations:

- St. Peter the Apostle Church Pastoral Center building (during office hours);
- New Castle Presbyterian Church Christian Education Building (during office hours);
- New Castle United Methodist Church (during office hours);
- Immanuel Episcopal Church on the Green at the entryway and porch of the Church;
- New Castle Senior Center, 400 South Street, Mon. through Wed. and Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Happy Harry's/Walgreen's (Ferry Cut-Off), 7 days, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- The Court House at 210 Delaware Street, Wed. through Sat., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Tree Commission is seeking donations to help defray the cost of cabling and trimming the Landmark Catalpa Tree at 119 East Second Street. Make checks payable to the Tree Commission and send to 220 Delaware Street. Note in the check memo that the donation is for the Catalpa Tree.

Apply now for property tax exemptions

Apply now for the Over 65 or Disability property tax exemption. For an appointment, at the convenience of the taxpayer, call Marian Delaney at 322-9811. The maximum yearly income requirements are \$15,000 for a single person and \$30,000 for a married couple. Social Security income is not counted toward the minimum. The last day to apply is June 15th.

Code Enforcement Corner

The New Castle City Board of Health strives to keep properties in compliance with rules and codes. To report problems or file a complaint, call Code Enforcement Officer John Lloyd at 221-6507. Complaint forms are available on the City Web site at: www.NewCastleCity.org.

This months Code reminders...

Snow: Residents/owners are responsible for cleaning sidewalks within 24 hours after the end of a snow or ice storm. Three feet is the required minimum path width.

Trash: Place all trash for pick up at curb (only at permitted times). Remove receptacles by end of day after pick up.

On windy days, please do not place any loose items out for recycling or trash pick up. Everything should be in containers.

Vehicles: No unregistered, inoperable or wrecked vehicles are allowed in the City unless inside a fully enclosed garage. Current registration must be displayed on the vehicle.

Donate and get a warm feeling!

The New Castle Cares Fund is continuing its acceptance of donations, with envelopes available at the offices of the Municipal Services Commission at 216 Chestnut Street.

This winter has been especially cold and not everyone in New Castle is able to pay their bills to keep their homes heated. Please consider helping your fellow citizens who need help to pay their electric bills.

The Salvation Army administers the fund and donations are tax deductible.

**City Offices Closed with
No Trash Pickup on Monday, February 15**
Revised Trash Pickup Schedule:

<u>Regular Schedule</u>	<u>Revised Schedule</u>
Feb. 15	Feb. 16
Feb. 16	Feb. 17